

FOREIGN

RIO DAILY DETAILS EAST GERMAN ESPIONAGE IN BRAZIL

Berlin -- The West German intelligence service recently completed a confidential report containing important statements made by Guenter Maennel, former secret agent of the East German Intelligence service, concerning the network of East German espionage and Communist infiltration in South America. Maennel revealed that in Brazil, the subversive system was organized in 1961 by Kurt Ullrich, who was at that time the head of the East German Trade Mission in Rio de Janeiro.

According to Maennel's statements, the Communist government of Berlin promised to construct with the USSR a complete network of infiltration and espionage in Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Venezuela, and Uruguay. The members of the trade delegation had the following duties: (1) to organize, direct, and finance the local Communist groups; (2) to channel to the Soviet Union all of the information obtained through the Communist network of espionage in South America; and (3) to create an organization of collaborators influential in the politics and in the social life of the country, such as senators, deputies, writers, and labor union leaders. Following the period in which differences arose between Communist China and the Soviet Union, the German trade representatives were also given the responsibility of neutralizing the attempts of the sympathizers of the Chinese policy to assume command of Communist forces in South America.

Password of Ullrich Was "Coffee"

The Bonn government learned, through Maennel's testimony, that Kurt Ullrich initiated activities in Brazil under the secret name of "coffee". All of the confidential and coded messages received or sent by Ullrich were identified by this password. His contact with the East German secret service, the HVA, was made through regular telegraphic routes or by mail, because the radio station set up in Berlin to handle this mission failed completely.

Error in Calculation

Because of an error in calculation, the equipment which was installed was not sufficiently strong to maintain good communications with agents in the Near East and in South America. The former agent of HVA revealed that a new receiving and transmitting station was recently installed in the outskirts of Berlin, this time with sufficient power to maintain adequate communications with agents in any part of the world.

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